

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1974
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2007
COMMERCIAL BANKS IN THE COUNTRY
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of rural Branches of Commercial banks in the country as on March 31, in 1991, 2001 and 2007;
- (b) whether a number of rural Bank Branches in the country have come down during the last few years; and
- (c) if so, the reasons for decline?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a): The number of rural branches of commercial banks in the country is 35206, 32562 and 30573 at the end of March 1991, 2001 and 2007, respectively.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c): While the number of rural branches have decreased from 35206 in 1991 to 30573 in 2007, total number of branches have increased from 60220 to 71548 and semi-urban branches from 11344 to 16273, respectively, during the same period.

Consequent upon updation of population group classification as per 2001 census in March 2006, there have been changes in status (i.e. Rural, Semi-Urban, Urban and Metropolitan) of branches/ offices of banks mainly due to upgradation of population group of banked centres from lower population group to higher population group consequent upon growth in the population of centres, as per 2001 census compared to that based on 1991 census. As a result of these changes, a number of banked centres, which were classified previously as rural as per 1991 census, were classified as Semi-Urban, Urban, and Metropolitan as per 2001 census.